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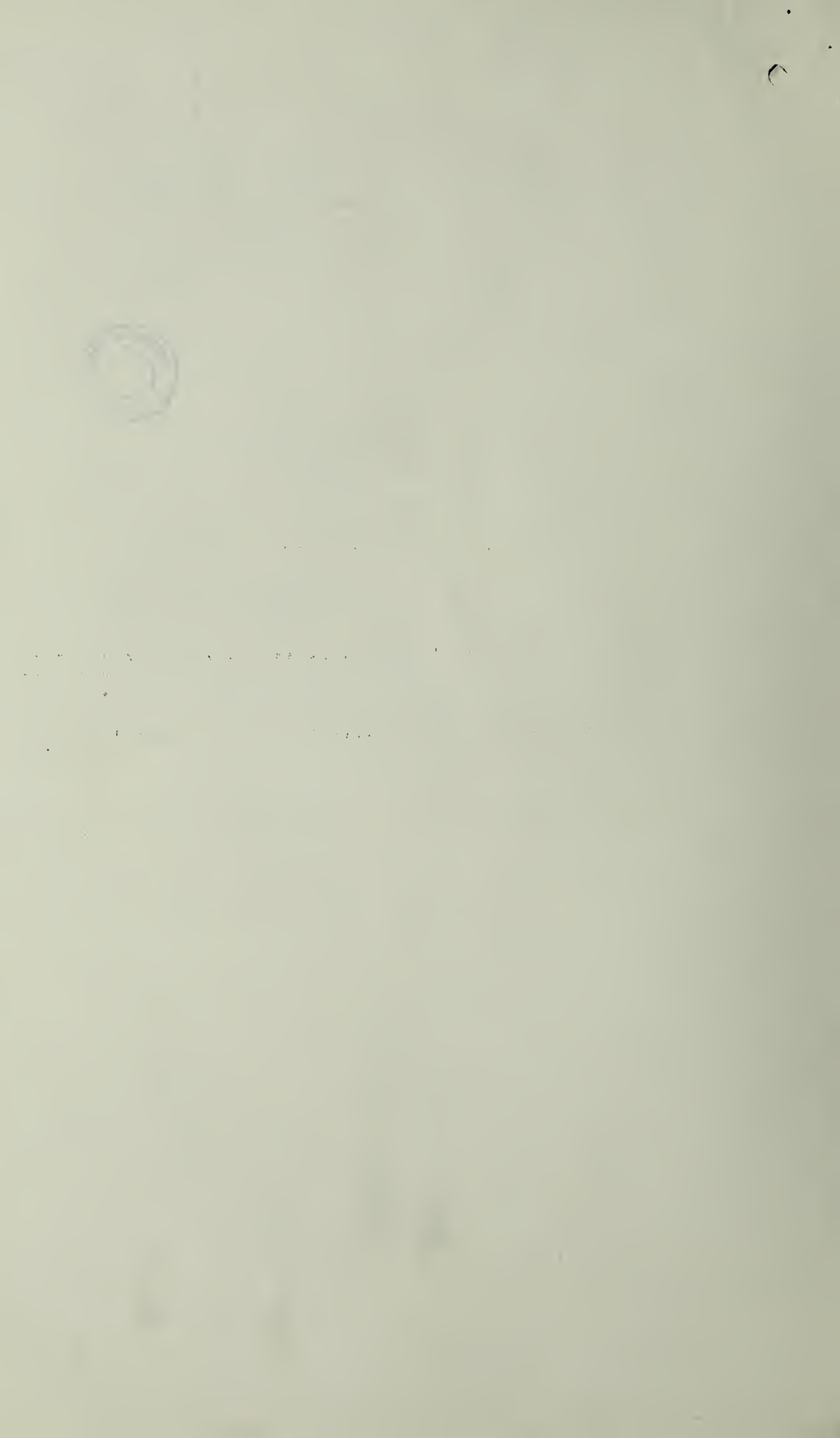


Builth Urban District
Report
of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the year 1956.

Officials.

Medical Officer of Health.....T.C.R.George, M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P.,
D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector....Mr.G.Llewellyn, M.S.I.A.,
M.R.San.I.



Builth Wells Urban District
Report of the Medical Officer of Health
1956

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my annual report on the sanitary conditions and the state of the public health in the Builth Wells Urban District during the year 1956.

In the preparation of this report I have endeavoured to deal briefly with all matters within my responsibility regarding public health and preventive medicine and I have included comments on all the subjects specifically requested in Circular 19/56 (Wales) by the Welsh Board of Health.

Section 1. General and Vital Statistics.

Area.....701 acres.

The Urban District of Builth Wells, which has an area of 701 acres, is situated on the right bank of the river Wye in the northern part of the County of Breconshire. The surrounding country is agricultural in nature and farming is the predominant occupation of the residents. The district is also a very pleasant country holiday resort.

Population.

Census 1931.....1663.

Census 1951.....1708.

Estimated at Midsummer 1956.....1560.

The Registrar General's estimated population for the last ten years are shown below.

1947. 1948. 1949. 1950. 1951. 1952. 1953. 1954. 1955. 1956.

1539. 1707. 1674. 1674. 1638. 1576. 1561. 1570. 1570. 1560.

Inhabited Houses. The number of inhabited houses was 543 giving an average number of persons per house of 2.9.

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rate per 1000 pop.</u>
Legitimate	9	9	18	
Illegitimate	1	0	1	
	10	9	19	12.1

The corresponding rate for the whole of England and Wales was 15.7. The district rate was therefore lower than the national average and, regrettably was also lower than the district death rate.

Illegitimacy. One illegitimate birth was registered during the year.

<u>Still Births.</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rate per 1000 live&still births</u>
	1	0	1	50.0

The corresponding rate for the whole of England and Wales was 23.0. The district rate was therefore higher than the national average.

<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rate per 1000 pop.</u>
	10	10	20	12.7

The corresponding rate for the whole of England and Wales was 11.7. The district rate was therefore higher than the national average and also, regrettably, higher than the district birth rate.

Maternal Deaths. No deaths were attributable to childbirth during the year which was a very satisfactory feature.

Infantile Mortality. This is the number of deaths occurring in children of under one year of age.

<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate per 1000 live births.</u>
1	0	1	52.6

The corresponding rate for the whole of England and Wales was 23.8. The district rate was therefore higher than the national average. This illustrates perfectly the effect a small number of infantile deaths has when the total live births is comparatively small. This death occurred in a child of under 4 weeks of age.

Deaths from Special Causes.

Infectious Disease.....	Nil.
Respiratory Tuberculosis.....	Nil.
Other forms of tuberculosis.....	Nil.
Cancer.....	Two.

Analysis of Causes of Deaths. Males...10. Females...10.

<u>Cause</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Malignant neoplasm, breast.....	0.....	1.
Other malignant neoplasms.....	0.....	1.
Coronary disease.....	3.....	1.
Other heart disease.....	4.....	7.
Congenital malformations.....	1.....	0.
Other defined causes.....	1.....	0.
Motor vehicle accidents.....	1.....	0.

The deaths are classified under the headings given in the new Abridged List of Causes of Deaths.

Section 2. General Provisions of Health Services.
Public Health Officers.

On the 2nd. January 1956 Mr. G. Llewellyn, M.S.I.A., M.R. San. I., was appointed as your Public Health Inspector, in succession to Mr. E. V. Collins, and he continued his duties until the end of the year.

Laboratory Facilities. During the year laboratory facilities were available at Cardiff, Newport, Carmarthen, Swansea, Aberystwyth, Builth and Brecon. Water samples were sent to the Public Analyst for the County at Carmarthen whilst any investigation required in the control of infectious disease was performed by the Public Health Laboratory at Cardiff.

Nursing and other Facilities. The County Council is responsible for the provision of the ambulance and home nursing services. The County also administer the maternity and child welfare clinics where treatment is obtainable for minor ailments, dental, eye and orthopaedic defects. Immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough is also carried out at these clinics.

Hospitals. The hospital needs of the residents for all diseases apart from infectious disease are provided by the Builth Wells Hospital. The arrangements for the treatment of infectious disease remain the same as in previous years. Merthyr Borough treat the patients suffering from infectious disease at Mardy Isolation Hospital. These arrangements are proving extremely satisfactory.
For the treatment of smallpox arrangements have been made by the Welsh Board of Health for beds to be available at the Penrhys Hospital, Rhondda.

Disinfection. In the main the methods used for any disinfection when required have been fumigation and spraying.

Section 3. Sanitary Circumstances.

Water Supply. The Town is supplied by (1) Tycapel reservoir which is an impounding reservoir to the open moorland catchment area. (2) Newry Well which derives water from a spring. (3) Hongwm Springs which is a piped supply to the Brecon Road Storage Reservoir. (4) Pantylllyn which is an upland lake and only used in cases of emergency. (5) A Mobile Pump has been purchased by the Council to supplement the towns supply should occasion arise. The pump is capable of pumping far in excess of 60,000 gallons per day which will meet the needs of the community. The above sources were almost adequate during the year but it was necessary to limit the supply occasionally at night. The Council have so far rejected an invitation to join in a major scheme with neighbouring authorities but have engaged a consultant to advise on possible improvements to the present supply. The Council also supply water in bulk to two neighbouring authorities, Colwyn Rural District and Builth Rural District.

The bacteriological examinations of the water during the year were found to be satisfactory, 12 satisfactory results being obtained and 2 unsatisfactory.

Every effort is being made to maintain a pure supply of water by protecting the various sources from likelihood of contamination. Regular inspections were made of the moorland catchment area for evidence of dead sheep etc.

All houses in the district are supplied direct with a domestic piped supply. 7 houses are also supplied with a communal standpipe.

Careful attention to the amount of chlorination necessary was also given.

Number of samples taken during the year.....14.
 Number reported as satisfactory.....12.
 Number reported as unsatisfactory.....2.
 No chemical examination was made during the year.
 Number of visits made by Public Health Inspector to water supplies..104.

Drainage and Sewerage. The sewage in the district is not treated in any way but is discharged into the River Wye below the town. The number of houses now not connected to a public sewer is 11, 10 have septic tanks and no nuisance is created. 1 other house has an earth closet.

Number of visits in connection with drainage work.....19.

Consultants have been engaged with the view of preparing a possible sewage disposal works for the town. By the end of the year the survey of the existing system had been made and plans prepared.

Public Cleansing. There was no change in the methods adopted for the collection of refuse. This is collected once a week by your Council staff and disposed of by controlled tipping. No tipping takes place now on the old site, a new refuse tip having been commenced at Caeau Farm.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area. The sanitary inspection of the area was undertaken by your Public Health Inspector. The following details give information relating to the work of the Public Health Inspector during the year.

Nuisances.
 Number of complaints received.....69.
 Number of complaints investigated.....69.
 Number of premises inspected.....36.
 Number of premises revisited.....20.
 Number of preliminary notices served.....9.
 Number of statutory notices served.....0.

Houses let in Lodgings. It is not considered that any of the houses in the district are of such a nature as to require control made under byelaws made under Section 6, of the Housing Act, 1936.

Offensive Trades. There are no offensive trades in the district.

Common Lodging Houses. There are no common lodging houses in the district.

Licensed Premises.

Number of visits made by Public Health Inspector.....27.
Number of notices served.....0.

Shops Act.

Number of inspections made.....Nil.

Factories.

Number of factories on register.....22.
Number of inspections made.....44.
Number of defects found.....8.
Number of defects remedied.....8.

Camping Sites. There is no recognised camping site in the district.

Tents,Vans and Sheds.

Number of visits made.....6.

Eradication of bed bugs and steps taken to combat infestation.

Number of premises infested.....0.

Rodent Control. This work is undertaken by one of the Council's workmen.
The Caeau Farm refuse tip was treated twice during the year with good poison bait takes. The sewers were treated in June when there were no takes of bait.

Number of premises inspected during the year.....12.
Number of premises found infested.....9.
Number of premises treated by Rodent Operator.....9.
Number of premises treated by occupier.....0.

Legal Proceedings. No legal proceedings were undertaken during the year.

Section 4. Housing. No Council houses were built during the year. Two houses were completed by private enterprise. Three applications were received for Improvement Grants under Housing Act, 1949 and all were approved.

Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932.

Number of houses which, on inspection, were considered unfit for human habitation.....Nil.
Number of visits made under the Housing Acts.....42.

Section 5. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk. Since the coming into operation of the Milk and Dairies Act, 1944, the Council is left with the registration and supervision of distributors. The result of samples taken during the year are shown below.

Number of cowsheds, dairies and vehicles inspected.....42.
Number of milk samples taken.....7.
Number reported as satisfactory.....7.
Number reported as unsatisfactory.....Nil.
Seven samples of milk were also examined for the presence of tuberculosis with negative results in all cases.

Meat. The small private slaughterhouse, licensed on 1st. July 1954, continues to operate in the district.

Number of visits to this slaughterhouse.....146.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
Number killed and inspected	127	37	1082	167
<u>All diseases except tuberculosis and cysticerci</u>				
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	1	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	48	-	225	1
Percentage of No. inspected affected with disease other than T.B. or cysticerci	42%	-	20.8%	0.6%

T.B. Only.

Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	9
Percentage of the No. inspected affected with T.B.	-	-	-	5%

Cysticercosis. Nil

Disposal. Collected by knacker

Food Condemned during the year.

Amount of food condemned.....339½ lbs.
This condemned food was in tins which were all punctured and buried in the Council's tip.

Market Improvements. During the year the market continued to work satisfactorily as an attested market, and a covered calf pen was provided.

Food Preparation Rooms (Including Bakehouses)

Number of inspections made by Public Health Inspector.....192.
Number of notices served.....0.

Ice Cream Premises.

Number of inspections made by Public Health Inspector.....25.
In the district there is 1 producer retailer and 6 retailers.

Preserved Food Premises.

Number of inspections made by Public Health Inspector.....31.
There are 4 of these premises in the town.

Fried Fish Shops.

Number of inspections made by Public Health Inspector.....7.
There was one fried fish shop in the town.

Byelaws under Section 15. Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

The number of food premises, by type, were:- Licensed Hotels 12, Food Shops 31, Cafes and unlicensed Hotels 8, Fish and chip shops 1, and 5 bakehouses.

Section 6. Prevalence and Control of Infectious Disease.

No cases of notifiable disease were reported to me during the year. This was an extremely satisfactory state of affairs.

Venereal Disease. The County Council has an agreement with the General and Eye Hospital, Swansea, for the treatment of these cases. The tracing of contacts and the following up of defaulters is the responsibility of the County Council.

Tuberculosis. The following details show the position as regards tuberculosis in recent years.

Number of cases on register at commencement of year.....	15.
Number of fresh cases notified during the year.....	1.
Number of cases removed as deceased.....	0.
Number of cases removed from register as disease arrested.....	4.
Number of cases who left the district.....	1.
Number of cases left on register at end of year.....	11.

The number of cases of tuberculosis notified in recent years is shown below:-

1946. 1947. 1948. 1949. 1950. 1951. 1952. 1953. 1954. 1955. 1956.

3. 3. 1. 4. 4. 3. 2. 3. 0. 1. 1.

Diphtheria Immunisation. As a result of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the County Council are responsible for the immunisation of children against diphtheria and details for the district will be found in the annual report of the County Medical Officer of Health.

Facilities for immunisation are now available at the ordinary Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics and also at the schools during the school medical inspections.

It is pleasing to see that the incidence of diphtheria continues to fall. The object of the immunisation campaign, however, remains the same: to secure the immunisation of not less than 75% of babies before their first birthday. It must be remembered that diphtheria still kills and that elimination of the disease is conditional upon the maintenance of an adequate level of immunisation. If parents leave their children unprotected there may be a return of diphtheria outbreaks.

No cases of diphtheria were notified during the year.

Yours faithfully,

T.C.R. George,

Medical Officer of Health